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MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE COLLEGE
LIBRARY

MISSOURI STATE LIBRARY

CHARTING MISSOURI'S LIBRARY FUTURE

PEOPLE'S NEEDS AND PUBLIC FUNDS

More than 600 Missourians participated in a series of statewide public forums to comment on libraries, the library service they expect in the future, and how state and federal funds should be used to develop libraries and library service in Missouri.

Forum sponsors included Secretary of State Rebecca McDowell Cook, the State Library, the Coordinating Board for Higher Education, and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

State Library staff analyzed the 2,000-plus comments generated at these public discussions to identify the major issues of concern to librarians, government officials, and the general public.

Preliminary findings were released during the summer; a "key findings" report will be published early in 1997. The key findings will provide the basis for the State Library's long-range plan and guide statewide library service and funding decisions.



Governor Mel Carnahan accepts the 1996 State Elected Official Award from State Librarian Sara Parker. (Lloyd Grotjan photo)

NATIONAL LIBRARY AWARD TO GOVERNOR CARNAHAN

Governor Mel Carnahan received the 1996 State Elected Official Award given by the White House Conference on Library and Information Services Task Force. He was recognized for his strong support of libraries and promotion of technology to connect Missouri libraries and schools to the Internet.

LIBRARY PROGRAM ENCOURAGES FAMILY LITERACY

The State Library continued its successful family literacy programs at Missouri public libraries. First offered at five libraries in 1995, the program proved successful and was expanded to five additional libraries in 1996.

"Family Nights at the Library" offers programs for both parents and children on topics selected by local literacy and community organizations. Some of the most popular topics included "Helping with Homework" and "Selecting Books

for Kids." The 1996 programs were held in Charleston, Ironton, Salem, Union, and Sikeston.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY APPROVES LIBRARY AUTOMATION FUNDS

The Missouri General Assembly approved \$3 million for library automation projects, and Governor Mel Carnahan signed the legislation in June 1996.

A longtime supporter of education and libraries, Carnahan believes public libraries will play an increasingly important role in providing citizen access to the Internet. Through the governor's initiative, Missouri's public libraries have made impressive strides over the past two years to provide access to the Internet and other electronic information resources.

The State Library has developed a multi-year project for dispersal of these new funds through grant awards to public libraries. The project will provide equipment, software licenses, and telecommunications for library automation; it also will allow conversion of library records into machine-readable format and upgrade older public library automation systems. An automation projects committee will review grant applications from libraries.

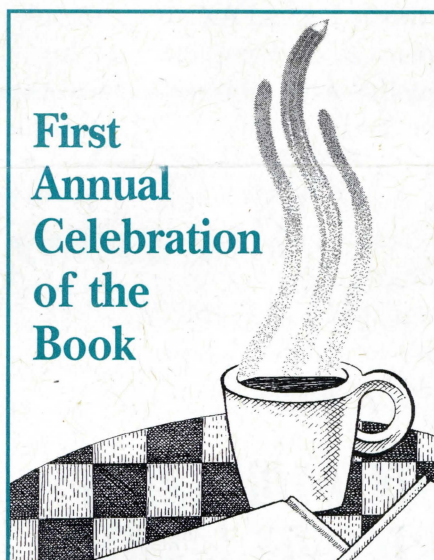
Three automation projects were recommended for funding in 1996. Secretary of State Rebecca McDowell Cook approved grants submitted by Cape Girardeau Public Library, the Municipal Library Consortium in St. Louis, and Neosho-Newton County Library/Joplin Public Library. The libraries receiving grants serve a total population of approximately 460,000.

WOLFNER'S FRIENDS SPONSOR PUBLIC EDUCATION PROJECT

The Friends of Wolfner Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped celebrated their 10th anniversary in 1996 and announced a major anniversary project: development of television public service announcements (PSAs) about Wolfner's services.

The PSAs were produced by the University of Missouri-Columbia's Cooperative Video Group during the summer. They will be used as one component of Wolfner's statewide public education efforts.

Wolfner's friends also supported the annual summer reading program for children, the descriptive video collection, and hosted award-winning Missouri author June Rae Wood as the keynote speaker at their annual membership meeting.



MISSOURIANS CELEBRATE THE BOOK

Three hundred readers, writers, booksellers, and publishers joined in the First Annual Celebration of the Book, sponsored by the Missouri Center for the Book on November 8-9 at Stephens College.

The first event of its kind in Missouri, the Celebration featured more than 70 Missouri authors, publishers, book reviewers, editors, bookstore owners, book artists, and other friends of the book. Speakers addressed issues in publishing, writing, and readership from many perspectives as well as the importance and impact of Missouri's literary heritage.

The program included sessions on popular fiction, biography and history, children's literature, books in the cyber era, contemporary poetry, marketing books to readers, censorship, and organizing book discussion groups. A highlight of

(continued on page 2)

ANNUAL REPORT 1996

HIGHLIGHTS

103,925 children participated in the statewide summer reading program at 94 libraries across the state.

1,700 Missouri students entered the statewide "Letters About Literature" essay contest.

14,200 Missourians used the services of Wolfner Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

Twenty public forums, held in communities across the state, gave Missourians the opportunity to discuss current and future library service in the Show-Me State.

Reference Service's popular Info-to-Go generated 22,624 information requests.

Over one million circulated! Wolfner Library's total circulation transactions reached 1,192,975.

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MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE COLLEGE
LIBRARY

REFERENCE SERVICES DIVISION

5,259 total
recorded Reference
Desk inquiries in
1996



The Reference Services Division produced 12 issues of its monthly bibliography, *Info-to-Go*, which was requested by more than 1,000 state agency researchers. The 1996 requests from the bibliography totaled 22,624 items. One of the State Library's most popular services, *Info-to-Go* alerts state agency research staff to new periodical, journal, and documents materials received in the State Library. *Info-to-Go* covers subjects such as education, health, information technology, management, and social services.



Reference Services staff produced

249 daily issues of its Missouri newspaper summary, *Keeping Up: News of Interest to Missouri State Government*. This daily summary is provided to the General Assembly and to the 15 divisions of state government by providing master copies for mass duplication by the individual agencies. The summary includes articles from more than 15 major Missouri daily newspapers about the activities and news of Missouri government entities.



State documents staff compiled 12 issues of *Missouri State Government Publications*. This monthly checklist includes monographs, se-

rials, annual serials, and other series published by the state and received in the State Library during the month of coverage. The State Library distributes multiple copies of many state publications to its 42 regional depositories, 10 of which are full depositories and 38 are partial depositories. Other depository libraries include the State Archives, the State Historical Society, and the Library of Congress.



Reference staff completed the 10th annual edition of the *Jefferson City Union List of Periodicals and Newspapers*. For the first time, this much-used union list will be available on the Internet through the Missouri State Library Web site on the Missouri Secretary of State's home page. State agency staff and other users can determine which Jefferson City library holds a particular jour-

nal through use of this publication.



The public catalog of the State Library's book collection became fully automated during 1996 with the installation of the DRA (Data Research Associates) online catalog. This system replaces the MCAT program, which used CD-ROM technology. The new system allows for a full range of library operations including circulation, acquisitions, serials control, and cataloging.



Staff from the Reference Services Division and the Legislative Library in the State Capitol prepared "Info-Packs" for members of the General Assembly. These "Info Packs" include articles representing different points of view on issues of interest or those likely to be addressed during the legislative session.

MISSOURIANS CELEBRATE THE BOOK

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the Celebration was a series of readings, storytellings, and book signings in 10 downtown Columbia businesses — from a coffee house and a bookstore to a specialty foods emporium and a fine crafts shop.

Financial and in-kind support for the Celebration came from the Missouri Arts Council, the Commission on Cultural Affairs-City of Columbia, the William T. Kemper Foundation, the Missouri State Library, Stephens College, Daniel Boone Regional Library, *The Missouri Review*, American Audio Prose Library, and Columbia Books.

The Missouri Center for the Book, a program of the State Library, is the state affiliate of the national Center for the Book in the Library of Congress.

ON THE WEB



The State Library's three divisions — Reference Services, Wolfner Library, and Library Development — expanded their presence on the World Wide Web during 1996. The divisions provide checklists, service application forms, manuals, conference and meeting announcements, news releases, a variety of state agency publications, and information about the Missouri Center for the Book. Also included are newsletters from the State Library and Wolfner Library.

Check out <http://mosl.sos.state.mo.us/lib-ser/libser.html> to keep up to date on State Library programs and activities.

STATE LIBRARY WINS AWARD FOR DATA COLLECTION

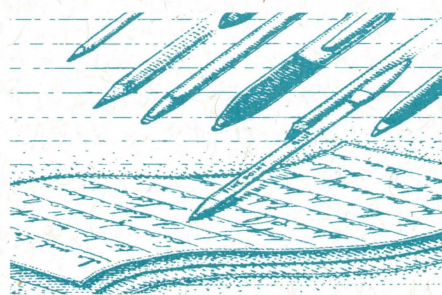
The State Library received a 1996 Francis Keppel Award for its submission of complete and high-quality public library data to the National Center for Education Statistics. The award is named for a former U.S. commissioner of education who was an early proponent of gathering accurate and regularly reported library statistics to provide a basis for public policy formulation.

STATE LIBRARIAN RECEIVES HONORS

Sara Parker, Missouri State Librarian, was elected president of the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) for a term from 1996 to 1998. COSLA is an independent organization representing the top library officers of the states and territories who are

responsible for statewide library development. Parker has been active in COSLA for 15 years.

Parker also was named to the American Library Association's Anniversary Honor Roll for her efforts on behalf of libraries and public access to information. The honor roll was instituted in celebration of the 50th anniversary of ALA's Washington Office.



MISSOURI PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND LITERACY — A SURVEY

The State Library surveyed Missouri public libraries in 1996 to determine the extent of their involvement in literacy activities. More than 80 libraries answered

the survey questions. Findings show the average library offers books and other materials for adult new readers and space for tutoring literacy students.

Many libraries also collaborate with community agencies on the development of family literacy programs or refer students to local literacy programs.

YOUTH SERVICES SPRING CONFERENCE

"Scoring Points with 9-12s" was the theme of the 1996 Youth Services Spring Conference, held in Columbia. The program dealt with ways librarians can serve children during the transition years of 9 to 12 — the years in which library use often drops off.

Featured speakers included Jan Irving, author, consultant, and storyteller, and Dr. Jean Ispa, associate professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies, University of Missouri-Columbia. The conference attracted 100 participants.



KIDS READiscover MISSOURI!

Ninety-four Missouri public libraries participated in the 1996 summer reading program, *READiscover Missouri*. Developed to celebrate Missouri's 175th anniversary, the program offered a planning manual, a kid-friendly poster, two bookmarks with a Missouri theme, and several specialty items. Ann Stein, a graphic artist from Webster Groves, created the artwork for *READiscover Missouri*.

The Missouri theme enabled librarians to create an exciting array of educational and FUN programs — from games about Missouri place names and Missouri trees to programs on Missouri sports and Missouri authors.

STATE LIBRARY PARTNERSHIPS

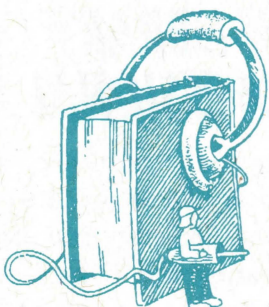
The State Librarian met often during 1996 with representatives from government, education, cultural agencies, and professional library organizations to discuss a variety of issues including the development of cooperative, linked library systems that would incorporate reciprocal borrowing and interlibrary loan; distance education projects; appropriations for statewide electronic information priorities; discounted telecommunications rates for libraries and schools; the implications of the new federal welfare law on statewide literacy and job training services; continuing education for library employees; and standards for Missouri public libraries.

Agencies and organizations included the Missouri Public Academic Library Administrators, Missouri Library Association, Missouri Public Library Directors, Missouri Library Network Corporation, Missouri Association of School Librarians, Missouri Arts Council, Missouri Humanities Council, Missouri Research and Education Network; Coordinating Board for Higher Education, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and LIFT-Missouri.

WOLFNER LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Registered 1,739 new individual and 54 institution clients.
- Increased enrollment in statewide summer reading program by 16%.
- Expanded reference service — more than 760 searches for information requested by clients.
- Staff conducted more than 40 programs explaining Wolfner services at town meetings, conferences, senior citizens centers, and schools throughout the state. Staff also displayed Wolfner materials and described the library's services at a Missouri State Fair exhibition.
- Published *Wolfner News*, a newsletter for library clients and institutions, in large print and braille formats. Initiated provision of *Wolfner News* in recorded format. The newsletter is issued three times a year.
- Installed an online public access catalog (OPAC) of the library collection.
- Processed 205,590 title requests.
- Incorporated a new logo into publications and promotional items.
- Produced statewide election information in braille and recorded formats.



CLIENTS GIVE HIGH RATINGS TO WOLFNER STAFF AND SERVICES

Almost 1,200 individuals and institutions responded to Wolfner Library's client survey during 1996. The majority rated the library service "excellent," "very good," or "good."

Wolfner staff conducted the survey of its individual and institutional clients to determine how the service is used and how it might be improved. The survey was included in an issue of the Wolfner newsletter.

FRIENDS SUPPORT WOLFNER SERVICES

With a membership nearing 200, the Friends of Wolfner Library provide valuable service and input to the library staff and its operation. In 1996, the Friends supported the summer reading program for children and provided funds for the library's descriptive video collection and its public education and promotion efforts. The Friends' annual membership meeting featured June Rae Wood, award-winning Missouri children's author.



First Lady Jean Carnahan with the "Letters about Literature" contest winners (l-r) Jennifer Dudley, Susie Cromley, Charity Roller, Malinda Hobbs, Holly Bante, and Missouri state award winner Nicole Nordlicht (seated). Lloyd Grotjan photo.

1,700 MISSOURI STUDENTS ENTER "LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE" CONTEST

The Missouri Center for the Book co-sponsored the 1996 "Letters About Literature" contest with READ magazine and the Library of Congress. Students in grades six through 10 were asked to write a letter to an author whose book or body of work had a strong influence on their life. Missouri and Louisiana had the highest number of entries in the national contest.

Nicole Nordlicht of Clayton received the Missouri State Award for her essay, and Susie Cromley

of Blue Springs won second place. Honorable mentions went to Jennifer Dudley, Niangua; Charity Roller, Dadeville; and Holly Bante and Malinda Hobbs of Jefferson City.

First Lady Jean Carnahan hosted a reception for the students, their families, and teachers at the Governor's Mansion during National Library Week in April. The first lady serves as honorary chair of the Missouri Center's board of directors.

MISSOURI STATE CENSUS DATA CENTER ACTIVITIES

The center was heavily involved in training activities during the spring of 1996. These included Internet training and Geographic Information Service (GIS) training.

The center's annual meeting was held June 24-25 in Jefferson City and featured sessions on the American Community Survey, plans for the 2000 census, and presentations by John Ambler, Peter Bounpane, and Larry McGinn of the U.S. Census Bureau.

Center staff organized two advisory committees in 1966 to provide input in the areas of affiliate training and Internet/Web development.

One of the center's most-used services is its Web site, which includes Missouri and U.S. census data, economic publications, geographic information, and special reports. To visit the MSCDC site, go to <http://www.oseda.missouri.edu/mscdc/index.html>.

CONSULTATIONS

Library Development staff consulted with library staffs and governing boards across the state on a wide range of problems and issues such as selecting an automation vendor, board development, censorship of library materials,

personnel evaluation methods, literacy program materials, and volunteer management.

The State Library maintains an extensive professional materials collection, which helps the Library Development staff with their research for librarians, library trustees, and others needing information on library operations.



AUTOMATION BASICS WORKSHOPS

Library Development staff offered three regional automation workshops during the fall. The one-day sessions presented an overview of automation terms and concepts and information about how to plan and implement a library automation project. The intent of the workshop was to prepare libraries for the automation process and to provide an information base which could be helpful in securing automation grants.

More than 50 librarians and library trustees attended the workshops, which were held in Brookfield, Ironton, and Springfield.

1996 STATE LIBRARY PUBLICATIONS

Literacy Activities of Missouri Public Libraries details the growing involvement of the state's libraries in literacy programs and services. This report documents the results of written and phone surveys conducted in 1996.

Missouri Libraries: 1996 Directory lists addresses, phone, fax and e-mail numbers, hours of service, and names of directors for public, college and university, special, and institutional libraries. The directory includes listings for 640 libraries.

Statistical Report of Missouri Libraries contains data from 271 libraries. Included are statistics on population served, income and expenditures, collections, personnel, and circulation. The data are based on statistics reported to the State Library by public, academic, special, and institutional libraries.

Missouri's Literary Heritage, produced by the Missouri Center for the Book, describes the Show-Me State's rich literary tradition



from early settlement days to the present. This 36-page booklet highlights Missouri authors by region and is illustrated with more than 60 photos. It also includes information on Missouri's literary magazines, literary landmarks, and books about Missouri authors.

READiscover Missouri: 1996 Planning Manual is packed with program suggestions, games, booklists, publicity tips, and clip art to help youth services librarians plan exciting library programs. Librarians from across the state contributed their "great ideas" for programs, stories, crafts, displays, and songs for this manual.

Depository Library Handbook: State Publications Depository Library System. This publication describes the state documents program and its statutory authority, the benefits of the depository system, the types of publications distributed through the system, and depository library standards.

1996 saw the introduction of two new regular publications:

Newsline, a monthly newsletter, keeps Missouri librarians informed about State Library programs, legislation affecting libraries, and news about the Mis-

souri library community. It is available in print and on the Web at <http://mosl.sos.state.mo.us/newsline/newsline.html>.

Missouri Library World, a quarterly magazine, features articles about Missouri libraries and librarians, friends of Missouri libraries, and those organizations and institutions concerned with education and information resources. It also features regular columns about library technology, literacy programs, state government publications, Missouri books and authors, the state census data center, archival matters, and other professional concerns.

NEW LIBRARY COUNCIL REPRESENTS PROFESSIONAL AND PUBLIC INTERESTS

Secretary of State Rebecca McDowell Cook formed a Council on Library Development for Missouri in 1996. The council advises the Secretary and the State Librarian on matters that relate to libraries and library service in Missouri and recommends policies and programs to the Secretary and the State Librarian. Council members also communicate the importance of libraries to the general public and to those responsible for libraries.

The council, which represents elected officials, librarians, library trustees, educators, and citizens, held its first meeting in December.

..... Rebecca McDowell Cook, Secretary of State • Sara Parker, State Librarian • Madeline Matson, Editor • Letitia Hise, Assistant

MISSOURI STATE LIBRARY

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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573-751-3615

Library Development
800-325-0131

TDD – 800-347-1379

Fax – 800-751-3615

Wolfner Library
573-751-8720

Wolfner toll-free in Missouri
800-392-2614

<http://www.sos.state.mo.us/lib-ser/libser.html>

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